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Saturday, November 22, 2008 10am-2pm

While supplies last! One package per household.



### October - Autumn - Fall !!

colorful glory, my favorite time of the year is here once again. I stepped outside early this morning to refill our bird feeders, bird bath pans and deer feeder stations, and .....

morning chill. I took a deep breath and a few "goose bumps" appeared on my arms. This was a dramatic confirmation that fall had arrived.

I could see it! The leaves of our hickory trees were dressed in their fall and Halloween colors of yellow and orange as the morning sun put them in nature's spotlight. The upper branches of the maples were proudly displaying their new fall fashions of red and gold. The morning sky was even different. It was a magnificent dark azure blue with not a cloud to be seen. The squirrels also seemed aware that fall was here as they hurriedly scampered about gathering and burying the freshly fallen acorns in preparation for the chills of winter that lie ahead. A slight breeze was sending a few colorful leaves floating and dancing through the air seeking a spot on the ground for their final resting place.

I could hear it! The slight breeze of the morning created the soft sound of a few leaves rustling over the ground. A more noticeable sound, however, was the absence of most sounds or the austere quietness. The noisy summer sounds of the cicadas, that we called 'July Flies" in our younger days, no longer resonated through the woods. Their annual serenade ceased a couple weeks ago. The chirping of crickets had slowed and their sounds softened. I recalled how you can almost tell the temperature by the ratio of their slower chirps. The birds were even quieter this morning

except for the occasional far-off sounds of a few crows. I could smell it! The pleasant odor of the drying

Whatever you prefer to call it, it is here. In all of its leaves filled the air bringing back wonderful memories of my youth and the times we hiked through the woods this time of the year looking for scaly bark nuts and

perhaps a few remaining wild muscadine grapes. After putting a few small piles of corn on our cir-I could feel it! I became extremely aware of the cle drive in front of the house and into two wire bottom troughs that I built as feeding stations for the deer, I noticed two small fawns and three does crossing the road and headed up through the woods for their breakfast. The young fawns are now several months old and have lost most of their speckled camouflage that was so beautiful soon after their birth. I moved back into the house quickly so as not to spoof them and watched through the window as they began to munch on the corn. They left almost immediately as they saw five bucks with their impressive antlers heading up across the woods. Soon afterwards, we watched a traditional fall ritual that few people have the opportunity to witness. Four of the bucks paired off facing each other, kicked up a little dirt with their front paws, lowered their heads and interlocked their racks, pushing each other back and forth. One of the bucks was a giant eight-pointer. With his superior weight and strength, he was more successful in establishing his dominance but, on occasion, the smaller buck would push him back four or five feet. We watched in great fascination as this ritual continued for about 15-minutes. It was like watching a wildlife movie first hand.

This time of the year always brings back such wonderful memories of the days when I lived and grew up in Wadesboro. I was always thrilled over the fun and activities we enjoyed during the fall and excited over the thoughts of the upcoming Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons that lay ahead.

By T. D Burns, Charlotte, NC

## Lone Shoppers, Words to the Wise Re Worrisome Weirdo's

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Oddities do occur, leaving some to speculate why things happen. And in that vein. I am left wondering where the entire realm of weirdo's come from and why, it seems, they zero in like cockroaches feeding after night fall, especially in shopping areas and moreover while maneuvering toward the lone consumer.

The utterly inept weirdo's usually unfurl in public places and spaces. Like the mall, which should be a nice place to browse, see a movie, or have dinner, but as it turns out, is frequented by those I will refer to as shadowers, otherwise known as stalkers, predators, trackers or even hunters. And thus my reason for this piece, my offering in regard for my fellow shoppers who are also in pursuit of a bit of lone "retail therapy."

Encountering a corporate-type wearing a suit and tie, I found myself shadowed from one end of the mall to the other, and into every store I stepped. Over the years I've found myself in similar situations within the confines of the mall walls. Each incident had a common denominator, I was alone. Statistically it's not a smart move to make but lone shopping is one of my passions. So I take some risks when it comes to my methods for relaxing, releasing, reenergizing, and reinvigorating my self, my spirit and my senses. Shopping is therapeutic, and allowing predators to invade my right to do so isn't included in my grand scheme, particularly when I am steadfast on being extra careful.

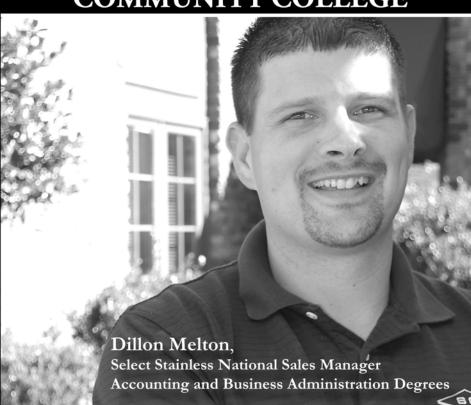
For example, take notice. Once while checking my purchases an aware clerk said, "Look around before you go out. Do you have your keys ready?" So I stopped, took out my keys as she suggested, began my watch, and in an instant was approached. I thanked God for the Angelic cashier who had shared her insight which helped ready me for the situation in which I found myself. Not only did I listen, I took her advice and it paid off.

Shopping centers and parking lots afford freaky followers as well so keep your heads up and your eyes peeled. Several incidents in those spaces have caused me to lose my nerve, my desire for new shoes, and made for an inability to check anything off my to do list. At the very least it's annoying and at the worst is too risky to go unnoticed. For instance, while pushing my cart through the lot of parked cars surrounding a local chain store I was approached by a man who was chatty and a bit too complimentary for my own peace of mind. Never has a worrisome weirdo come in such close proximity. A mere inch from the peculiar, pesky, possibly perverted person was way too close for comfort, and within the corners of my mind there was no place for peace.

If I've learned anything from these incidents, stretched over a period of time, it's probably ill-fated that you shop alone. Most of these episodes happened during daylight hours which proved to be no deterrent to the deranged degenerates. It is unfortunate for me that I enjoy shopping alone; it is also unfortunate for me that I seem to attract every nut that has fallen from the tree of trepidation.

So mamas don't let your babies go shopping alone. It seems to be a haven for derelicts, deviants and dare devilish dopes. And, my words to the wise; shop with sisters, friends or familiar folks. Maybe you can at least out number the worrisome weirdo's wandering about. Take heed and Godspeed! By Melanie Morse

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### Veterans Job Fair **Nov. 12**

Piedmont Community College and JobLink the Career Center will present the 2008 Military Veteran's Job Fair on Wednesday, November 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at SPCC's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro.

This free job fair is open to both military veterans and members of the public who are unemployed or underemployed. Job seekers from Anson and Union counties can meet face-to-face with employers. Attendees should arrive at the fair with copies of their current resume.

The Lockhart-Taylor Center is located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. For more information, call the Wadesboro Employment Security Commission at 704-694-6551.

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